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* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its fortieth executive session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 14 December 2006. It will appear in final form, together with the reports of the forty-first executive session, the forty-second special session and the fifty-fourth session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/62/15).

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Chapter I

REPORT OF THE PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS
(Agenda item 2)

1. For its consideration of this item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

"Enhancing the Development Role and Impact of UNCTAD" (UNCTAD/OSG/2006/1);

"Report of the UNCTAD Panel of Eminent Persons on 'Enhancing the Development Role and Impact of UNCTAD'" (TD/B/EX(40)/2).

General statements

2. **H.E. Mr. Benjamin Mkapa**, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and a member of the Panel of Eminent Persons, reiterated that UNCTAD was a critical component of international development efforts that, if it did not exist today, would have to be invented, especially in the light of the recent crisis of multilateralism. This was especially true from the perspective of the organization's African constituents. In the unanimous opinion of the Panel of Eminent Persons, UNCTAD's mission and raison d'être would remain valid and its services urgently needed, since the problem of development would persist. That was why the members of the Panel had unanimously defended UNCTAD in their report. UNCTAD was at a crossroads, however, defined by a growing conflict between the reality of its success and a perception of its redundancy and ineffectiveness. He stressed that the organization's structure and methods of work would need to be reinvigorated and enhanced, and adapted to the rapidly changing global economic circumstances and the evolution of approaches to development strategies, if it was to serve the millions of poor people in the world. This applied particularly to UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery, which would be 12 years old by the time of UNCTAD XII, whereas UNCTAD's mandates were renewed every four years. He stressed that all of the Panel's recommendations were intended to serve the ideal and mission of UNCTAD — as a think tank on development issues, firmly anchored in its three pillars of work, and its mandates deriving from the Bangkok Plan of Action and the São Paulo Consensus.

3. Referring to the recently released report of the United Nations High-Level Panel on Coherence on Environment, Development and Humanitarian Affairs, of which he was a member, he stressed that although the Panel's report did not mention UNCTAD explicitly, its recommendations touched on the organization's future. Citing the reference to UNDP's withdrawal from sectoral issues as an example, he pointed out that UNCTAD's role in the areas of its competence would be consolidated and strengthened. Also, the executive session of the Trade and Development Board and the deliberations of the Panel of Eminent Persons would place UNCTAD well ahead of the curve with regard to the follow-up to the Coherence Panel's report.

4. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that he had had three purposes in mind when establishing the Panel of Eminent Persons: first, to provide ideas about how to enhance the development role and impact of UNCTAD and how to fulfil better the mandates of the São Paulo Consensus and the Bangkok Plan of Action; secondly, to advise on how to best

position UNCTAD in the light of the UN summit in 2005 and the need to adapt the organization to the overall UN reform process; and, thirdly, to develop ideas for the processes of the Mid-term Review and the preparations for UNCTAD XII. The report of the Panel of Eminent Persons had lived up to expectations and provided four key messages, taking into account inputs from Geneva delegations in a process that was as complete as possible. First, the report had confirmed the mission and raison d'être of UNCTAD, whilst pointing to the need to adapt to a changing global environment. Secondly, it had indicated the need to adopt a spirit of partnership to achieve "shared success". Thirdly, it had underscored the need to focus on efficiency, effectiveness and impact, so as to ensure that UNCTAD was part of global deliberations rather than an afterthought. Fourthly, it had confirmed the need for UNCTAD to be a meaningful think tank for addressing current development issues "ahead of the curve" in order to anticipate future trends, thus enabling member States to brace themselves for future challenges. The report contained three sets of recommendations. The first set referred to the overall UN reform process, and could possibly provide inputs for influencing that process. The second set could be considered to fall within the Secretary-General's purview. The third set was addressed to member States, and could be pursued in the context of the preparations for UNCTAD XII. The outcome of the Mid-term Review could point to possibilities for an "early harvest" in this regard.

5. Concerning the first set of recommendations, the Secretary-General stressed that the Panel of Eminent Persons had already had considerable influence on the work of the UN Coherence Panel, providing a clear indication of UNCTAD's continued relevance and underlining the importance of the organization's country-level engagement in technical assistance delivery. These messages had been brought to the attention of the UN Secretary-General and the members of the Coherence Panel, and would also be conveyed to the incoming Secretary-General. Concerning the second set of recommendations, he emphasized the value of some of the pragmatic solutions provided by the Panel of Eminent Persons with regard to enhancing UNCTAD's responsiveness to member States' needs. Increasing the coherence of the organization's outputs and its interdivisional cooperation, streamlining publications and flagship resources, involving think tanks around the world, engaging eminent economists, and consolidating and strengthening technical assistance activities would all be useful in this regard. Concerning the last set of recommendations, which mostly concerned the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery, he reiterated the Panel's assessment that reform was long overdue. The Panel's suggestions in this regard, such as those concerning the form of the various outcomes, the establishment of standing expert meetings, the consolidation of the commissions and the biennialization of the Conference, were far-reaching in terms of institutional reinvigoration, touching on the very functioning of the entire intergovernmental machinery, including the TDB and the Conference. It would be the prerogative of member States and the Conference to take a final decision on these matters.

6. With regard to the way forward, the Secretary-General stressed the need to put the operational aspects of the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII in place as soon as possible. Discussions in this regard should be transparent and open-ended and cover both institutional and substantive issues. A global forum on trade, investment and development could be considered as a means of providing inputs into this process.

7. The representative of **Pakistan,** speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, stressed the commitment of the Group of 77 and China to strengthening UNCTAD and enhancing the organic and historical link between the G-77 and UNCTAD. He expressed the Group's appreciation for the efforts by the Panel of Eminent Persons and the Secretary-

General in protecting UNCTAD against any poaching or depredation, and for placing it at the centre of the development debate as a pro-development, knowledge-based organization that aims at facilitating the successful integration of developing countries into the world economy. Member States' reflections on the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and its proposals for UNCTAD's future structure and its intergovernmental arrangements should build on the outcomes of the Mid-term Review and their implementation. The report was one dimension of the overall preparations for UNCTAD XII. A strong intergovernmental mandate was needed to ensure that all outcomes of this process had the strong support of member States. The recommendations made by the Panel of Eminent Persons fell into two categories — those that had a solid grounding in the Mid-term Review outcomes, and those that would require further reflection as the UNCTAD XII preparatory process unfolded.

8. The speaker also stressed the need to have clear principles, objectives and processes in terms of the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII. This should be informed by three principles. First, it should result in strengthening UNCTAD as the key UN body that situates development at the heart of global trade and the global economy. Secondly, this process should be results-oriented, and firmly rooted in the Mid-term Review outcomes. Thirdly, member States' deliberations should proceed in a constructive and pragmatic manner, with emphasis on achieving tangible deliverables. In terms of objectives, this should lead to enhancing UNCTAD's role as a focal point within the UN system for the analysis of global economic and trade issues, and for building consensus on rules that should underpin an equitable global economy. In terms of process, it was important to ensure that the decisions by the Secretary-General and member States feed into each other, with a greater degree of clarity regarding what falls into whose purview. Discussions on the recommendations and the process of implementing them should be transparent and should include all member States. With regard to the individual recommendations in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, he stressed that they could lead to the strengthening of UNCTAD's intellectual integrity, independence and innovative approach to development-related issues, with effective oversight of the secretariat's work by member States. At the same time, however, care needed to be taken to preserve operational mechanisms and the balance among the three pillars of UNCTAD in such a way as not to weaken UNCTAD's links with its core constituency and traditional support base. The pros and cons of the recommendations should be fully analysed before intergovernmental negotiations led to operational decisions. In particular, the existing intergovernmental negotiations mechanism based on the group system, which had worked well in the past, should be further strengthened.

9. Concerning the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII, he expressed the G-77 and China's view that these should be decided upon by the end of February 2007, so as to allow more time in which to focus on the substantive issues of UNCTAD XII. In closing, he expressed the G-77 and China's appreciation for the Secretary-General's and the Deputy Secretary-General's work, as well as for the support of UNCTAD's intergovernmental support services.

10. The representative of **Nicaragua,** speaking on behalf of the **Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC)**, stressed that the discussions on UNCTAD's future should focus on two areas, namely highlighting the new global environment and its impact on development, and identifying elements that would make UNCTAD's work more effective. Several inputs should be taken into account in this regard, including the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, the Secretary-General's reflections on the report, and the South Centre's report. Also, the issue of UNCTAD's future should be

placed within the broader context of the UN system-wide reform effort. She reiterated GRULAC's longstanding commitment to UNCTAD and the organization's vital role as the United Nations' focal point for the comprehensive treatment of development issues, as manifested and reaffirmed in the São Paulo Consensus. However, UNCTAD was at a crossroads, and the need to renew its functioning was undeniable. The recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons provided useful elements in this regard, including concerning the organization's core function, namely its research and policy analysis activities. GRULAC would support the Panel's vision of UNCTAD as an intergovernmental think tank that provides first-rate research to create understanding and points of convergence among member States. The speaker also stressed her Group's belief that UNCTAD must increase coherence in its intergovernmental processes, ensuring that its meetings yielded specific policy options by common consent, dealt with current events and provided space for all regions to articulate their specific opinions.

11. With regard to technical assistance, better coordination between the organization's programmes based on the needs, concerns and priorities of its main beneficiaries was required, as was improvement of the management, implementation and evaluation of programmes. Concerning the concrete follow-up to the Panel's recommendations, she requested an evaluation of the UN Coherence Panel's outcomes from UNCTAD's point of view. Any modus operandi for implementing the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons should be preceded by an intergovernmental process that should be open and transparent. In this regard, she proposed the establishment of an ad hoc intergovernmental working group with open-ended membership.

12. The representative of **Angola,** speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, stressed that the Bangkok Plan of Action, adopted by UNCTAD X and confirmed and updated at UNCTAD XI in the São Paulo Consensus, would remain the bedrock of the organization's mandate for fulfilling its development mission. As recognized in that mandate, UNCTAD was the focal point of the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, with particular attention to the poorest and most vulnerable economies, including in particular the least developed countries and Africa. In the light of this vision and mandate, the Panel of Eminent Persons had emphasized that UNCTAD should be a think tank on development issues, firmly anchored in its three pillars, namely research and analysis, consensus-building and technical cooperation, and that within the context of the ongoing UN reform now under way it should maintain and expand its independence and core competencies.

13. He recognized the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons as a good basis for generating dialogue among member States and helping to catalyse revitalization of UNCTAD, in combination with other ideas. Member States would remain the key players in this process. He stressed that the African Group was fully committed to engaging constructively and proactively with all development partners to generate "Accra outcomes" as a momentum for revitalizing and strengthening the organization on the basis of its core competencies in the light of the Eminent Persons' report (i.e. the organization's comparative advantages; its differentiation and complementarity; and its strategic and catalytic interventions), in the context of the mandates derived from the São Paulo Consensus and the Bangkok Declaration. The "Accra outcomes" would put the organization on a new and forward-looking development footing in the interest of contributing to a UN system-wide coherent approach in the pursuit of the implementation of the Millennium Development

Goals. In conclusion, he said that the African Group supported the proposal that the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII be finalized by February 2007.

14. The representative of **Afghanistan,** speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group**, expressed his Group's view that the process of consultations on the ways and means of strengthening UNCTAD's developmental role with a view to making the organization more effective, relevant and strong was inherently intertwined with the preparations for UNCTAD XII. In the context of the agreed outcomes of the Mid-term Review and the Secretary-General's reflections on the Eminent Persons' report, there were a number of areas where it should be possible to work for "early harvests". The primary guiding principle would be the central position of UNCTAD within the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and its related issues. That position should be enhanced with a view to making UNCTAD strong, effective and relevant. Related outcomes of UNCTAD XII should be results-oriented and achieved through a coherent and transparent preparatory process that could include consideration of the Eminent Persons' recommendations. The relevant modalities and steps would need to be clearly specified.

15. Quoting paragraph 25 of the outcome of the Mid-term Review, he reiterated that UNCTAD "as an intergovernmental body, must respond to the needs, concerns and priorities of its membership, and measures to strengthen UNCTAD must take into account the need for the organization to remain responsive and accountable to Member States". Stressing the historic and symbiotic relationship between UNCTAD and developing countries, he expressed the Asian Group's full commitment to the process of making UNCTAD strong and relevant.

16. The representative of **Benin,** speaking on behalf of the **Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**, stressed that UNCTAD was at a crossroads, and that since the ongoing UN reform was approaching its final phase, UNCTAD XII and its preparatory process would be timely and pertinent. The Group of LDCs would support the initiatives to strengthen and reinvigorate UNCTAD. The proposals made by the Panel of Eminent Persons in this regard were welcomed, and should be seen together with inputs from other development partners and civil society. In particular, non-governmental organizations were vital for increasing the organization's impact. The implementation of some of the recommendations of the Eminent Persons' Panel could be considered to be the Secretary-General's task, whereas the implementation of other recommendations was within the responsibility of member States. However, a clear distinction should be made between the organization's mandates and the improvements to its functioning. Calling for a participatory approach in this regard that would involve all stakeholders in intergovernmental meetings, he reaffirmed the Group's proposal that UNCTAD's three pillars be strengthened and that dialogue reflecting the Bangkok Declaration and the São Paulo Consensus be fostered.

17. UNCTAD's contribution to overcoming the plight of the LDCs remained relevant. It was important in this connection to enhance UNCTAD's technical cooperation projects in LDCs. It was also necessary to restore UNCTAD's lost mandates and to streamline the organization with the aim of enhancing development initiatives. A major challenge in this regard would be to translate intentions and objectives into concrete actions, especially with regard to restoring and enhancing UNCTAD's budgetary requirements. In terms of the recommendations made by the Panel of Eminent Persons, he called for further clarifications concerning the meaning and impact of recommendations 6, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 17, so as to ensure that all member States read those recommendations in the same way.

18. The representative of the **United Kingdom,** speaking on behalf of **Group B**, reiterated the Group's appreciation for the Secretary-General's initiative and the Eminent Persons' dedication and passion with regard to considering ways and means of strengthening UNCTAD in the changing circumstances of the modern world. He asked that Group B's enthusiasm to consider the Eminent Persons' report should not be misinterpreted or misrepresented. Group B's eagerness to discuss the report was not because of some hidden agenda, but its desire to get on with the job of working together with all colleagues — not least the Group of 77 and China — in using the report as the basis for strengthening UNCTAD. Member States had proven themselves both willing and able to work together in partnership in the context of the successful conclusion of the Mid-term Review: and this had been on the basis of consensus. They now had another opportunity to demonstrate their ability to work as partners — between Governments, and collectively with the UNCTAD secretariat. He suggested that the Eminent Persons' recommendations be discussed in three baskets — those that were tasks for member States to engage in; those that came within the Secretary-General's purview; and those that were important for discussion in the broader context of the ongoing UN reform, but were for discussion in New York. But no matter how they decided to proceed with consideration of the report, they needed to commence their work without further delay, particularly as UNCTAD XII was not that far away, and they needed to ensure that they had an UNCTAD that could meet the challenges and mandate that their Ministers would want to agree at Accra. Therefore, the recommendations of the Eminent Persons should not be considered on a take-it-or-leave-it basis, but should provide room for adaptation and discussion where necessary. Group B would support the proposal of the representative speaking on behalf of GRULAC, who had suggested the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group to discuss these matters, with a view to reaching agreement on some recommendations by April 2007. In this context, he called for an "early harvest" on recommendation 10 of the Panel of Eminent Persons (which called for the overcoming of confrontational attitudes, the building of trust and the creation of a comfort zone).

19. The representative of **Finland,** speaking on behalf of the **European Union**, called the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons a pertinent input for enhancing and highlighting UNCTAD's comparative advantage so as to maximize the development impact of its work. Study of the report and its recommendations should take place between now and UNCTAD XII, with the TDB's executive session in April 2007 drawing some preliminary conclusions. The European Union encouraged the Secretary-General to pursue those recommendations that were within the realm of internal management, whilst keeping member States informed of progress on a regular basis. Member States should reach an early understanding in this regard. Recommendations related to UNCTAD's internal management and to issues that had already been agreed upon in the São Paulo Consensus or the Mid-term Review could be given the "green light". Another group of recommendations would need to be considered as part of the UN system-wide coherence process. The remainder should be the subject of discussions and decisions by member States in the coming months. Concerning individual recommendations, the European Union welcomed the call for the nurturing of a spirit of partnership and overcoming confrontational attitudes, and improving the decision-making structures and mechanisms in the intergovernmental setting, as well as improving outcomes leading to pragmatic solutions, and overcoming the varying degrees of internal incoherence in UNCTAD's publications. Some of the Eminent Persons' recommendations had been reflected in the Mid-term Review's agreed outcomes, for example exploring the possibility of having some expert meetings on a multi-year basis and building networks of experts.

20. The European Union fully agreed with the report's overall idea that UNCTAD should strategically position itself on the basis of its comparative advantage, differentiation and complementarity in the area of trade and development, so as to put its strengths to the best use in achieving development results. Concerning the way forward, the European Union was open to a transparent process deriving from an informal working group that would convene early in 2007 and report its discussions regularly to the President of the TDB. Results emanating from this informal group should be presented to the TDB's executive session in April 2007, so as to better enable UNCTAD to handle substantive preparations for UNCTAD XII.

21. The representative of the **Philippines** emphasized that the work on strengthening UNCTAD would need to fit into the overall context of the preparations for UNCTAD XII. The core objective should be to strengthen UNCTAD's development impact and to retain its mandate and its special position as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. Critical in this regard would be agreement on how to approach with clarity the issues regarding the procedures involved. It would be important to avoid unintentional outcomes that could arise if recommendations were implemented before their implications had been sufficiently analysed. Also, care would need to be taken to avoid weakening UNCTAD's strong and historic relationship with developing countries — the organization's staunchest defenders.

22. Concerning the way forward, he called for a clearer elaboration of the implications of the Eminent Persons' recommendations, and said that deliberations on this matter should move at a pace that was comfortable for all. An "early harvest" should be confined to those recommendations that were solidly grounded in the outcomes of the Mid-term Review. In conclusion, he called for a matrix enumerating all recommendations available so far, including those from the Eminent Persons' report, the South Centre report and the outcomes of the Mid-term Review.

23. The representative of **Japan** said that his country supported much of what the Panel of Eminent Persons had recommended. He commended the Secretary-General's decision to establish the Panel and review all UNCTAD's activities, and called for accelerated discussions based on the report with a view to UNCTAD XII in 2008. This process should start immediately. Focusing on activities where UNCTAD's expertise lay would improve the quality of the organization's work and in turn improve its role. With regard to publications, he indicated his support for streamlining and concentrating on flagship research products, and for setting up an internal review mechanism that would help UNCTAD capture the needs of the policymakers of developing countries. The intergovernmental machinery should work towards providing tool kits for use in achieving pragmatic results and inputs into national policy formulation and the international rule-making process. Furthermore, his country would support the idea of establishing a global network of think tanks and a consultative group of eminent development economists. In conclusion, he called on member States to recognize the golden opportunity presented by the fact that the Eminent Persons' report coincided with the term of office of the current Secretary-General and the preparations for UNCTAD XII in 2008.

24. The representative of **South Africa** stressed her country's appreciation for the Secretary-General's establishment of the Panel of Eminent Persons as an initiative aimed at strengthening the role of UNCTAD as the premier international body responsible for the coordination of activities and formulation of policies in respect of international trade and development. Achieving consensus on substantive issues within UNCTAD's mandate, such as

the need for negotiated solutions to development issues, including establishing greater coherence between international trade and financial policies, as well as measures aimed at mitigating the disproportionate impact of rule-making instruments on marginalized economies, would be equally important in this regard. Consideration should be given to the implementation of the UNCTAD XI mandates and the recommendations flowing from the Mid-term Review, as well as to the Eminent Persons' report. In order to ensure effective implementation of those outcomes, UNCTAD's budget should be strengthened. Concerning UNCTAD XII, she called for practical and effective outcomes that addressed the widening disparities in the levels of development between the developed and developing worlds, including with regard to the adoption of appropriate rules and disciplines in respect of the international financial system (a matter that had been appropriately addressed in the 2006 *Trade and Development Report*).

25. The representative of **India** said that earlier apprehensions concerning the Panel of Eminent Persons had not been well founded and that its report had reaffirmed the relevance of UNCTAD, foregrounded its important catalytic role in the pursuit of development at the national and international levels, and reiterated the need for UNCTAD's core competence to be maintained and enhanced. Some the report's recommendations related to the larger UN system; others were more operational and could come within the purview of the Secretary-General, while several others required decision-making by member States. Many of the recommendations were echoed in the outcomes of the Mid-term Review. He stressed that the report should be regarded as a useful input to the deliberations for UNCTAD XII and that there was a need for wide-ranging discussion and debate amongst member States to evaluate the relevance of the report's recommendations to the larger objective of strengthening UNCTAD's development impact.

26. Quoting India's Minister for Commerce and Industry, he articulated his country's expectations that a revitalized UNCTAD would continue to make a real contribution to helping developing countries confront today's complex trade and development challenges, and serve as a brains trust for development-friendly and innovative analyses and policy options. This should provide the perspective for evaluating the report's recommendations. Member States should assert their collective ownership of the report, carefully sifting through it in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

27. The representative of **China** welcomed the opportunity to exchange views on the Eminent Persons' report and its recommendations. This should enhance the outcomes of the Mid-term Review and pave the way for UNCTAD XII. The Eminent Persons' report was, on the whole, positive and its 21 recommendations were all well focused, pragmatic and positive. It would be up to member States to choose how they would be implemented. This would require a consensus that was as broad as possible, and could be achieved on the basis of commonality of purpose and political will. He stressed his country's readiness to explore and study the report and to work with other member States in an open-ended and transparent manner towards establishing a work programme to achieve consensus. His country took the view that improving the role of UNCTAD would require substantial efforts by member States and the secretariat. Many of the Panel's recommendations could provide new impetus for member States' efforts to revitalize the organization. This would not be a question of budgetary matters, but rather of political will.

28. The representative of **Indonesia** stressed that all efforts aimed at strengthening UNCTAD's role, such as the establishing of the Panel of Eminent Persons by the Secretary-

General, were welcomed. An in-depth and comprehensive discussion of the Panel's report in the intergovernmental meetings scheduled for early 2007 should make up the bulk of the preparations for UNCTAD XII. This should also include elements from the Secretary-General's reflections on the report. One element should be the enhancing of the coordination within the work of UNCTAD with a view to strengthening the organization's overall capacity. There should be no proliferation of UNCTAD's intergovernmental organs, so as not to weaken effective UNCTAD work programmes benefiting the developing countries. Expert meetings had proven value in helping and directing developing countries in navigating their development programmes and policies. The process of deliberations on the Panel's report should be informed by a clear understanding of the content of the reflection document and it should build on the successful outcome of the Mid-term Review. He called for a timetable for the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII, to be completed before the TDB's first executive session in 2007.

29. The representative of **Lebanon** stressed that UNCTAD was conceived as a pro-development, knowledge-based organization to facilitate the successful integration of developing countries into the world economy by providing development and policy-oriented research and a forum for consensus-building from a development perspective. His country was committed to strengthening UNCTAD and each of its three pillars, namely research and analysis, consensus-building and technical assistance, essentially from a development perspective and on an equal footing. Policy analysis and consensus-building would need to remain UNCTAD's main work, and technical assistance should flow from outcomes in those two areas. He stressed that the work for strengthening UNCTAD must build on the outcomes of the Mid-term Review, and that it should be part of an integrated and coherent preparatory process for UNCTAD XII. Consideration of the proposals contained in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons requires the full engagement of the intergovernmental machinery, and decision-making and implementation in this regard should not be mixed up. None of the recommendations should affect the balance among the three pillars of UNCTAD or dilute UNCTAD's accountability to member States. Recalling the historic and symbiotic relationship between UNCTAD and the G-77 and China, he stressed his country's support for the group system. The key to strengthening UNCTAD lay in nurturing and strengthening that relationship.

30. The representative of **Morocco** stressed that UNCTAD's fundamental objective of fostering development and placing trade at the heart of the development perspective, as confirmed in the São Paulo Consensus and the Bangkok Plan of Action, would continue to be valid in a globalizing world that would remain unbalanced as regards the development of developing countries. UNCTAD had gained considerable experience and comparative advantages as the central body in the United Nations system for dealing with trade, technology, finance and other related issues. Its competence in the investment area was well recognized, as witnessed by the recent participation of the Secretary-General in an investment conference in Morocco.

31. The proposals in the Eminent Persons' report for revitalizing UNCTAD merited full consideration by member States, whose participation in determining the most appropriate way forward would be essential. The report's innovative and important ideas would be undeniably relevant, especially in the context of UN reform, and should be taken into account before UNCTAD XII. This should be done through a participatory approach based on three fundamentals. First, efforts should aim at enhancing the development role and impact of UNCTAD and maintaining its areas of competence. Secondly, UNCTAD should be

strengthened within the international system. Thirdly, the specificity of UNCTAD and its status should be preserved. The focus of this work should be on a readaptation and "re-dynamization" of the organization (instead of revitalization) through cooperation between member States, the secretariat and the Secretary-General.

32. The representative of **Bangladesh**, recalling earlier reservations about the membership of the Eminent Persons' Panel, expressed his recognition of the Secretary-General's best intentions when setting up the Panel and his willingness to consider it in an open manner. Two major developments needed to be taken into account, namely the reorganization already carried out by the Secretary-General within the secretariat, and the impact on UNCTAD of the UN Secretary-General's Panel report entitled "Delivering as One". The UNCTAD Secretary-General's reflections on the Eminent Persons' report had left a number of issues unclear in this regard. Similarly, those reflections did not elaborate on the considerable internal reorganization of the secretariat that would be required for the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons. In this context, he called for information concerning the financial implications of the Eminent Persons' proposals that were intended to be implemented. He also called for more information on the technical assistance programmes currently being undertaken by UNCTAD and how they responded to the actual demands of member States, as well as for greater transparency with regard to the management of UNCTAD trust funds. Concerning the way forward, he stressed the need for further clarifications before a discussion began on each of the Panel's recommendations.

33. The representative of **Venezuela** reiterated his country's appreciation for the launching of the formal process of discussions on UNCTAD's future and how to strengthen its development role and impact. He stressed that the related intergovernmental process should be transparent and inclusive. The process of revitalizing UNCTAD was only one task to be dealt with in the months ahead, and should fall within the framework of the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII that was about to begin. The recommendations of the report of the Panel of the Eminent Persons would need to be divided into two groups, namely those related to the results of the Mid-term Review process that were based on the São Paulo Consensus, and those that would require further reflection and should be followed up on during the preparations for UNCTAD XII. Recommendations in the first group could be implemented as an "early harvest", but a prior process of consultation and reflection at the intergovernmental level was indispensable for the latter group. Member States should not confuse implementation and advisory mechanisms. The strengthening of UNCTAD should be achieved through improved intergovernmental machinery and a better functioning of the group system.

34. The representative of **Mozambique** placed the work of the UNCTAD Panel of Eminent Persons in the broader context of the global process of UN reforms, wherein UNCTAD should retain and expand its independence and core competencies. She stressed that in continuing its valuable contribution to the cause of development, UNCTAD would remain the relevant institution dealing with trade and development and interrelated issues. From an African perspective, UNCTAD would need to be coherently revitalized so that it could better help developing countries to successfully integrate into the world economy. Each of the Panel's recommendations should be analysed in a pragmatic and interrelated manner, against the background of UNCTAD's clear and updated mandates as defined in the Bangkok Plan of Action and the São Paulo Consensus. In conclusion, she emphasized her country's

support for finalizing the theme and sub-themes for UNCTAD XII in time to focus on substantive issues that could be taken up at Accra in 2008.

35. The representative of the **Islamic Republic of Iran** stressed that the outcome of the Mid-term Review provided an enhanced platform for improving UNCTAD's activities and the performance of its three pillars. The main issue would be to ensure UNCTAD's continued role as the key institution in the United Nations system for promoting development and contributing to the levelling of the global playing fields in the areas of trade, finance, technology and others, including through work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons and other inputs should be considered in the preparation for UNCTAD XII. Conclusions flowing from member States' deliberations in this regard should be consistent with the substantive discussion and outcomes of UNCTAD XII. Some of the recommendations could strengthen the intellectual independence and integrity of UNCTAD, enhance its intergovernmental machinery and its contribution to the work of the United Nations General Assembly, and contribute to improving and strengthening UNCTAD's technical assistance work. However, other recommendations could weaken the existing capacities of UNCTAD. At the present critical juncture in the comprehensive reform process within the United Nations system as a whole, intergovernmental support was vital for ensuring the future of UNCTAD.

36. In conclusion, the speaker said that the theme and sub-themes of UNCTAD XII should be decided by end of February 2007, so as to allow member States more time in which to focus on its substantive issues. This would also provide the opportunity to discuss, for an "early harvest", those recommendations that were firmly rooted in the outcome of the Mid-term Review.

37. The representative of **Nepal** stressed that the process of UNCTAD's reform would need to follow up on paragraphs 23, 24 and 25 of the outcome document of the Mid-term Review. Enhancing UNCTAD's role in, and impact on, the development of developing and least developed countries was a key concern. The organization's independence under its unique mandate for the integrated treatment of trade, development and interrelated issues should be preserved and its core areas of work should be strengthened in keeping with the three principal criteria outlined in the report of the Eminent Persons' Panel, namely comparative advantage, differentiation and complementarities, and strategic and catalytic interventions. Moreover, the organization's relationship with civil society and the private sector, especially those from the South, would be important in improving UNCTAD's relevance and productivity on the ground. Concerning specific Panel recommendations, steps would need to be taken to ensure that the global think tank concept was linked to the needs of developing and least developed countries. Therefore, institutions from those countries would need to be considered. With regard to the intergovernmental consensus-building processes and structure, detailed discussions and analysis of the pros and cons undertaken by member States would be required in order to determine the future course of action on those issues. While it was possible to follow the rationale for the "biennialization" of the Conference, the same did not hold true for the arguments regarding why the current group system would require reform. On technical cooperation, UNCTAD's country-level participation and involvement in regional development programmes should be increased. The Panel's work should be followed up on through a transparent process in order to bring UNCTAD ever closer to fulfilling its mandate.

38. The representative of **Belarus** stressed his delegation's appreciation for the good and timely translation of the Panel's report into Russian. UNCTAD had been losing ground at the forefront of research into trade and investment, and revitalization and a substantive review of the organization's work would be required in order to adapt it fully to today's world. UNCTAD's lead role in devising development strategies, preparing countries for accession to the WTO, reviewing investment policies, overcoming the technological divide and studying regional integration should be maintained and strengthened, reflecting the organization's main advantage — universal membership — and its global scope of activities. To increase the efficiency of its work, UNCTAD must take into account the needs, concerns and priorities of all member States and remain responsive and accountable to its membership. Among other things, UNCTAD should look into coherence between national and international strategies as well as how to ensure that economic liberalization on the international and national levels does not hamper development progress in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

39. With respect to individual recommendations, he stressed his country's support for a global think tank network that should be based on the equitable representation of all regional groups of countries, the initiative to strengthen the flagship reports, and proposals for setting up a new trust fund to finance the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD's expert meetings. There should be objective criteria for selecting experts, based on equitable geographical distribution, experience and knowledge.

40. Also, he agreed with the Eminent Persons' analysis of the problems associated with technical cooperation projects, such as those relating to the fragmentation of projects, the lack of financial resources, the need to provide a systematic inventory and the evaluation of the effectiveness of having four or five mega programmes. While he agreed that UNCTAD's technical assistance should be demand-driven and opened to all developing countries and countries with economies in transition, he did not support the recommendation of the Panel of Eminent Persons that UNCTAD's technical assistance should be limited to the developing countries with the greatest needs. The Panel's recommendations required more detailed work, which entailed a structured discussion that could result in action plans reflecting the consensus and positions of all member States.

41. The representative of **Thailand** reaffirmed his country's belief that UNCTAD should to stay ahead of the curve by providing useful outcomes, including guidelines and pragmatic solutions for discussion among member States. He supported the idea of establishing a global think tank network and a consultative group of eminent development economists. With reference to recommendations 2 and 5, he stressed the need to cooperate with heads of specialized agencies and to streamline partnership agreements between UNCTAD and other agencies and stakeholders. Although UNCTAD was faced with a lack of resources, it was able to provide guidance, support, technical assistance and development programmes at the country level, and, indeed, was able to meet the development needs of its main beneficiaries. However, moving forward in an effective manner would require further analysis for implementing the recommendations. In this context, it would be useful to have a road map that would cluster recommendations with specific goals to be achieved in accordance with clear schedules. The speaker supported an open-ended working group and constructive cooperation by all member States on the basis of the Eminent Persons' recommendation 10, which called for cooperation among member States in order to avoid confrontation, build trust and nurture a spirit of development partnership.

42. The representative of **Mexico** stressed the importance of dealing with the Eminent Persons' recommendations in an inclusive and transparent manner. She agreed with the four main points set out in the Secretary-General's reflections on the Panel's report, namely an appeal for UNCTAD's adaptation to a changing global environment; an appeal for working together and without confrontation; a focus on efficacy and impact; and the organization's role as a think tank. Her country would welcome the setting up of an open-ended intergovernmental working group that could elaborate on the fundamental competencies in the system. Concerning the revitalization of UNCTAD's research pillar, activities had to benefit all nations and all people. The policies and strategies of the United Nations development system had to be inclusive, it being recognized that, for development to be sustainable, development initiatives had to be tailored coherently to each country's needs. She reaffirmed that collective leadership was needed to ensure proactive action in keeping with the Monterrey Consensus, and other conferences and development institutions, with the participation of civil society and the private sector. The Eminent Persons' work was indispensable, although some recommendations would require further analysis, whereas others could be implemented in accordance with different time lines. Equally important would be to seek complementarity with other inputs.

43. The representative of **Argentina** stressed that the TDB's executive session constituted the beginning of debate and consultation towards UNCTAD XII, including the strengthening of the organization and the sharing of responsibilities among member States for the taking of action. For UNCTAD to have continuing relevance in line with the preamble of its founding document and the "Spirit of São Paulo", the focus of its work should entail debate on specific actions with transparent consultations. More specifically, issues that could be looked into included the emerging themes for UNCTAD that were identified by the Panel — rationalizing and formalizing the implementation of technical cooperation projects, substantial improvements in the functioning of the expert groups, lack of strategy for publications and a failure to disseminate them appropriately, more coordination of programmes, and better lines of research. The Virtual Institute could serve as a starting point for a global network of think tanks. There would be no need to set up a technical assistance advisory board.

44. The representative of **Algeria** stressed that revitalizing UNCTAD and preparing for UNCTAD XII would need to be firmly based on a continuation of the work already done during the Mid-term Review. Some of the Eminent Persons' proposals had been reflected in the conclusions of the latter. Member States should begin the difficult task of adapting the report to strengthen the implementation of the São Paulo Consensus and to consolidate UNCTAD's central role in respect of integrated management of trade and development matters. His country would continue to support the work of UNCTAD and would call for sufficient financing to be ensured for development matters, so that UNCTAD could play a vital role in the intellectual reorganization of the international economic system. For that purpose it should constantly improve the quality of its research and analysis and strengthen its human and financial resources. Recalling the historic link between the creation of UNCTAD and the creation of the G-77, he suggested that consolidation of regional groups could lead to cooperation, and a spirit of constructiveness, confidence and efficacy. This would be wholly consistent with the recommendations contained in the report of the Eminent Persons and could serve as a useful basis for future debate.

45. The representative of the **Russian Federation** stressed the timeliness and pertinence of the Eminent Persons' report for the efforts to enhance UNCTAD's effectiveness. Discussion at the Mid-term Review had confirmed that although UNCTAD was an

organization that was in demand, its very structure and method of work required reform. This should be achieved through a prudent and balanced process that nurtured the ability of the organization to implement its mandates. UNCTAD's comparative advantages would need to be consolidated in all three pillars of its activities. The proposal for a global network of think tanks was an important idea in this regard, and care would need to be taken to ensure equitable regional representation, possibly based on the work of the Virtual Institute. More dynamism through participation of high-profile academics and private sector participants would also help the intergovernmental machinery to retain relevance and impact. However, a possible reorganization should ensure that all existing activities were maintained and that better linkages were established between member States and the secretariat.

46. The organization's culture of political discussion should be based on respect, bearing in mind specific concerns and practical issues. This would lend credibility to the group system. Overall, UNCTAD's competence should be retained in key areas related to investment, competition, services, accession to the WTO, enhancing competitiveness, standards of accounting and enterprise. Another important consideration in this regard related to cooperation with other UN agencies and in particular the regional commissions, the WTO and UNDP.

47. The representative of **Tunisia** stressed his country's continued commitment to strengthening UNCTAD's role and capacity with regard to development work. He welcomed the valuable contribution that the Panel had made to UNCTAD's future through its report, which should be considered a step towards UNCTAD XII. The Panel's recommendations would provide impetus to the debate on the functioning of the organization, and a reservoir for possible ideas for the future role of UNCTAD. An important aspect in this regard was be the issue of the organization's work towards overcoming the digital divide, in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Summit, which had been held in Tunisia.

48. The representative of **Canada** underscored the timeliness, pertinence and forward-looking nature of the Eminent Persons' report, which was uncompromising in its vision and clarity of language. It provides concrete suggestions for building up the core strengths of UNCTAD, with pragmatic suggestions and linkages to the broader UN reform process. In this context, it would be useful to provide an assessment of the implications of the overall UN reform proposals for UNCTAD. Furthermore, the Secretary-General's reflections would be a good basis for consideration of the three sets of recommendations, and the speaker reiterated Canada's support for the three-basket approach endorsed by Group B. In terms of individual recommendations, he stressed his belief that engagement with the private sector should be pursued, possibly in cooperation with the International Trade Centre. In conclusion, he endorsed recommendation 8, which called for the establishment of a group of eminent economists. Concerning recommendation 18, he stressed that a country-level engagement would need to be squared with UNCTAD's global approach.

49. The representative of the **United States of America** said that the Eminent Persons' report merited careful consideration. She agreed that member States' reflections on its recommendations should be tied to the preparations for UNCTAD XII and that recommendations that members agreed are useful should be implemented without delay. The process of reform and reflection should not be limited to matters that would require the secretariat to change but also involve matters that required member States to re-evaluate their cooperation and prioritize their requests to the organization. This would ensure that UNCTAD could respond more effectively to member States' requests, and also that member

States would have the manpower and resources to actively participate in, and benefit from, the meetings and activities they endorsed.

50. She expressed her country's appreciation for the Secretary-General's reflections and the matrix defining who should take the leadership role for follow-up on each of the report's 21 recommendations. On the recommendations that would come primarily within the Secretary-General's purview, her country would look forward to working with the Secretary-General to better understand how those recommendations might be implemented and their relative priority and relationship to other recommendations in the report. Concerning the recommendations that would be primarily a matter for member States, she would look forward to engaging in a productive dialogue with the aim of finding recommendations that might be endorsed and implemented quickly, and others that could be taken to UNCTAD XII. She called for discussions on the recommendations to begin in early January 2007, so that by late February ideas about shared priorities could emerge in time for the meetings of the commissions.

51. The representative of **Cuba** welcomed the beginning of a dialogue between member States and the secretariat about UNCTAD's revitalization, and reiterated his country's commitment to strengthening the organization in a cooperative and constructive manner. This process should include not only the Eminent Persons' report and the Secretary-General's reflections, but also the South Centre's paper and member States' contributions. In addition, it could not consist in revisiting UNCTAD's mandates, but would need to focus on how to improve the visibility and impact of UNCTAD within the UN system, maintaining the organization's independence and uniqueness. Concerning the Eminent Persons' report and its recommendations, a number of clarifications would be necessary, so as to ensure that implementation would work towards strengthening the organization and not weakening it. The decision-making on all of the report's recommendations would need to have the participation of member States, and all recommendations should be subject to intergovernmental deliberations and implemented by consensus.

52. The representative of **Djibouti** stressed his country's appreciation for the Secretary-General's establishment of the Panel of Eminent Persons and for its work. This provided the opportunity to engage in an in-depth discussion concerning the future impact and role of UNCTAD, especially with regard to the LDCs and Africa. There should be universal agreement that the world was no longer living in the 1960s, when UNCTAD was created, but in 2006. As the world had moved on, so should people's mindsets, since outdated ideas would not make a difference in the real world. Against this background, there was a need to revitalize the organization. However, member States would need to ensure that a revitalized UNCTAD would not be paralysed by lack of funding. Concerning individual recommendations of the Eminent Persons' report, he stressed the importance of recommendations 18, 19 and 20 for LDCs.

53. The representative of the **United Republic of Tanzania** stressed his country's appreciation for the Secretary-General's initiative and the work of the Panel, and in particular for the role of H.E. Mr. Benjamin Mkapa in that process. UNCTAD would remain a vital organization for helping LDCs integrate into the global economy on the basis of fairness and equity. Planning for the future and for adequate resources would be essential in this regard. Underscoring the importance of the revitalization of UNCTAD, he called for an accelerated and constructive process to enhance its development role that should, in turn, enhance LDCs' prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Eminent Persons'

recommendations should be carefully considered, and a set of implementation measures should be identified, to be monitored by member States, so as to ensure that the process was on the right track. Accountability to all players and constituents should be ensured at agreed levels and within agreed time frames.

54. The representative of **Ethiopia** called the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons a historic document that should help launch the process of revitalizing UNCTAD. Reflecting on the Secretary-General's reflections, he commented on the report's individual recommendations. He agreed that UNCTAD should remain a leader regarding key emerging issues, and that, to make it more effective and efficient, a global network of think tanks should be established, although it would be important to identify the right regional partners. Concerning research, more emphasis should be placed on the quality of UNCTAD's products. In terms of the intergovernmental machinery, recommendation 10 would be useful, but care should be taken not to misuse the word "confrontational" in this context, as it could also refer to useful debate and a comparison of pros and cons. Consolidating the Commissions should ensure that no issues were lost and that their coverage was improved through a more in-depth and more focused discussion. He agreed with the recommendation that the Conferences be better focused, and in particular that the Mid-term Review processes be eliminated. On the matter of technical assistance, the report provided excellent recommendations that deserved serious consideration. For example, an interdivisional technical assistance review committee would be useful for ensuring coherence and coordination. Equally useful would be the establishment of an advisory body to deal with technical cooperation.

55. Concerning the way forward, UNCTAD would need to rise to the challenge set out by the Eminent Persons' Panel. Most importantly, care would need to be taken not to miss the opportunity provided by the report, especially in the light of the forthcoming preparations for UNCTAD XII.

56. The representative of **Zimbabwe** said that the report of the Eminent Persons' Panel was both timely and pertinent. He expressed his country's appreciation for the work of the Panel and the Secretary-General, aimed at enhancing the development role and impact of UNCTAD. In this context, it was important to reaffirm UNCTAD's distinct architecture, which should be firmly anchored in the task of making trade work for development. The recommendations of the Eminent Persons' Panel could be useful in this regard. Care would need to be taken to enhance their development impact. In this regard, it was important not to lose sight of the holistic approach to UNCTAD's reform, keeping in mind the special needs of Africa regarding trade, finance and investment.

57. The representative of the **South Centre**, as an observer at the fortieth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, expressed his organization's recognition that the Eminent Persons' report and the Secretary-General's reflections constituted valuable contributions to, and insights into, the future role of UNCTAD in a rapidly changing world. Referring to the South Centre's earlier inputs into the work of the Panel, as well as a recently published analytical note on this subject, he stressed that the challenge would be how to get UNCTAD right. The organization had the potential, the experience and the mandate to be a viable, strategic and reinvigorated multilateral institution that helped developing countries in a strategic manner to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world by being a key source for alternative and "ahead of the curve" strategic development policy thinking, a primary forum for multilateral North–South intergovernmental dialogue and consensus-building, with respect to both soft and hard law; and a mechanism through which developing and developed

countries could provide technical assistance to enhance development outcomes. The discussion of the Panel's report in this regard should take into account other initiatives and intergovernmental processes and should be placed in the context of the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII. Changes to the way in which UNCTAD worked should be thoroughly discussed from both conjunctural and systemic viewpoints, aimed at creating a better, more symmetrical and equitable world. UNCTAD could count on the full support of the South Centre in that endeavour.

58. The **President of the Trade and Development Board** thanked all delegates for their active participation, which had confirmed the importance of the Secretary-General's establishment of the Panel of Eminent Persons. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General in this regard.

Action by the Board

59. The Board decided to hold open-ended and transparent consultations in January 2007 for the purpose of in-depth examination of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons. Those discussions should also relate to UNCTAD XII, with a view to reaching agreement on this matter by the end of February 2007 and formally starting the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII in April 2007.

Chapter II

OTHER BUSINESS
(Agenda item 3)

60. The representative of **Kyrgyzstan** requested that the Trade and Development Board approve its application to join Group D. She pointed out that Kyrgyzstan was a member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, that it was recognized as a country with an economy in transition and that it had been the first former Soviet republic to join the WTO. At the United Nations Headquarters in New York, it was listed under the Asian group for geographical reasons, and there was no intention in the short term to change its status in New York. However, research on the issue had revealed that in Geneva membership of the different lists was not necessarily based on geographical distribution. For example, List B, which mostly comprised European countries, also comprised non-European countries. When it was originally developed it had comprised countries that had been part of the former Soviet Union and former socialist economies. Therefore, on the basis of these criteria, Kyrgyzstan, being a former republic of the Soviet Union, should be a member of List D.

61. The representative of the **Czech Republic** informed the Board that her Government was not in a position to agree to Kyrgyzstan's request to become a member of Group D.

62. The representative of **Belarus**, speaking on behalf of **Group D**, recalled the history of the request by Kyrgyzstan, which had come at the end of October 2006. It had been discussed by Group D on 6 November 2006, at the Consultations of the President of the Board on 21 November 2006 and at the TDB Bureau meeting on 6 December 2006. No objections or reservation had been made at those meetings. At that point, Belarus, as the coordinator of Group D, had considered that the matter had the full consensus and support of all member States. Unfortunately, however, on 13 December 2006, Belarus had received a letter from the Czech Republic stating its reservation regarding Kyrgyzstan's application for membership. The speaker asked the UNCTAD secretariat and delegations at the meeting for assistance in finding an appropriate solution to this issue.

63. The representative of the **Russian Federation** welcomed the request for membership by Kyrgyzstan. He fully agreed with the argument which its representative had presented and said that Kyrgyzstan's wish to join List D reflected the spirit of change within UNCTAD. Kyrgyzstan could make a substantial contribution to increasing the effectiveness and dynamic development of the group of countries with economies in transition. He recalled the important role that the Czech Republic had played in Group D when it was its coordinator. He was disappointed at the turn of events, but nevertheless respected the opinion of the Czech Republic and proposed that note be taken of it. However, he stressed that the overwhelming majority of Group D had a different opinion. Every member of UNCTAD had the right to choose the group to which it wished to belong in accordance with its own interests. Also, it was important to bear in mind recommendation 11 of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, which called for a more flexible approach to the formation of groups. In conclusion, he proposed that the TDB take note of the reservation of the Czech Republic, but also that it approve Kyrgyzstan's request for membership of Group D.

64. The representative of the **United Kingdom** noted that there was some reservation about approving Kyrgyzstan's membership of Group D at this time, but this did not mean that it would not be possible to reach full consensus at a later time. This was a matter for Group D

to solve. In UNCTAD, member States worked on the basis of full consensus, and "consensus minus one" would therefore not be a good precedent to set.

65. The representative of **Uzbekistan** agreed with what had been said by the representatives of Belarus and the Russian Federation with regard to what had happened and the fact that no objection had been raised in the past. For its part, his country had no objection to Kyrgyzstan's application for membership of Group D. He requested the representative of the Czech Republic to explain why her delegation had changed its mind just before consideration of Kyrgyzstan's application.

Action by the Board

66. The Board decided that consultations should continue in Group D with a view to reaching consensus on Kyrgyzstan's application for membership of that group. It took note of those ongoing consultations and decided to put the issue of Kyrgyzstan's application on the agenda of the next executive session of the Board, to be held in April 2007.

Chapter III

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS

Opening of the session

67. The session was opened by Mr. Mohamed Saleck Ould Mohamed Lemine (Mauritania), President of the Board.

Adoption of the agenda

68. The Board adopted the provisional agenda contained in document TD/B/EX(40)/1, as amended. (For the agenda as adopted, see annex I below.)

Bureau

69. The Bureau of the Board was as elected at its fifty-third session. The Bureau was thus as follows:

President:	Mr. Mohamed Saleck Ould Mohamed Lemine (Mauritania)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Arsene Balihuta (Uganda) Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios (Cuba) Mr. Andrej Logar (Slovenia) Mr. Juan Antonio March (Spain) Mr. Alex Van Meeuwen (Belgium) Mr. Fredrik Arthur (Norway) Ms. Lisa Carle (United States of America) Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation) Mr. Mohammad Ali Zarie Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr. Miguel Bautista (Philippines)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Ana Inés Rocanova (Uruguay)

Report of the Board on its fortieth executive session

70. The Board authorized the completion of the report of the fortieth executive session under the authority of the President.

Annex I

AGENDA FOR THE FORTIETH EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons
3. Other business
4. Report of the Board on its fortieth executive session

Annex II

ATTENDANCE[1]

1. Representatives from the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Cuba
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Ghana
Germany
Greece
Guinea
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Lesotho
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
Senegal
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Uzbekistan

[1]For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(40)/INF.1.

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. Representatives from the following States members of UNCTAD but not members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Cambodia
Holy See
Timor-Leste

3. Representatives from the following observer attended the session:

Palestine

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African Union
European Commission
Organisation internationale de la francophonie
Organization of the Islamic Conference
South Centre

5. The following United Nations agency was represented at the session:

Economic Commission for Africa

6. The World Trade Organization was also represented at the session.

7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General Category

Engineers of the World
Ocaproce International